

What is claimed is:

1. A method of eliciting a T cell immune response to an antigen in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an auxotrophic attenuated strain of *Listeria* which expresses said antigen, wherein said auxotrophic attenuated strain comprises a mutation in at least one gene whose protein product is essential for growth of said *Listeria*.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said *Listeria* is *L. monocytogenes*.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said auxotrophic attenuated strain is auxotrophic for the synthesis of D-alanine.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein said mutation comprises a mutation in both the *dal* and the *dat* genes of said *Listeria*.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said auxotrophic attenuated strain further comprises DNA encoding a heterologous antigen.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said auxotrophic attenuated strain further comprises a vector comprising a DNA encoding a heterologous antigen.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein said heterologous antigen is an HIV-1 antigen.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein said heterologous antigen is an HIV-1 antigen.

9. A vaccine comprising an auxotrophic attenuated strain of *Listeria* which expresses an antigen, wherein said auxotrophic attenuated strain comprises a mutation in at least one gene whose protein product is essential for growth of said *Listeria*.

10. The vaccine of claim 9, wherein said *Listeria* is *L. monocytogenes*.

11. The vaccine of claim 9, wherein said auxotrophic attenuated strain is auxotrophic for the synthesis of D-alanine.

12. The vaccine of claim 11, wherein said mutation comprises a mutation in both the *dal* and the *dat* genes of said *Listeria*.

13. The vaccine of claim 9, wherein said auxotrophic attenuated strain further comprises DNA encoding a heterologous antigen.

14. The vaccine of claim 9, wherein said auxotrophic attenuated strain further comprises a vector comprising a DNA encoding a heterologous antigen.

15. The vaccine of claim 13, wherein said heterologous antigen is an HIV-1 antigen.

16. The vaccine of claim 15, wherein said heterologous antigen is an HIV-1 antigen.

17. An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising a portion of a *Listeria dal* gene.

( ) ( )

18. An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising a portion of a *Listeria* *dat* gene.

19. An isolated strain of *Listeria* comprising a mutation in a *dal* gene and a mutation in a *dat* gene which render said strain auxotrophic for D-alanine.

20. The isolated strain of *Listeria* of claim 19, further comprising a heterologous antigen.